

# SEVENTY-NINTH CONFERENCE

(Continued from page five.)

The idea that parenthood entails the greatest responsibilities which can be assumed by the human race. He believed the relationship of parent and child was not a matter of mere chance—there had been, in his mind, an agreement on the part of the children to become subject, in righteousness, to the will of the parents, and they, in turn, had agreed to become the guardians of the minds and the bodies of those children. If parents leave to their children only the heritage of food and clothing and mental education—the heritage of mere money—their parenthood has not been a success; they have not been parents, they have only been donors, contributors to the financial welfare of their children, and have left the most important part of the spiritual—to starve. It is no disgrace to live in poverty, but many a stifled grand has followed the inheritance by the children of wealth. The speaker said he hoped that before next conference should roll around every ward in the Church shall have held parents' conventions, and the general board expected reports to that effect at the next conference.

David Reese of Provo, sang the solo, "Let Me Dream Again."

DR. JAMES E. TALMAGE.

Elder James E. Talmage, a member of the general board, made a brief but pointed talk on "The Evils of Speculative Theology." The speaker defined the word as the science having to do with the dealings of God with his children. The subject is one too sacred to make the subject of common debate. The Latter-day Saints recognize the elements of progression in theology, and this includes necessarily the ideas of investigation, and in a measure, consequently, speculation. The difficulty in this connection is that the people confuse their opinions with facts, with the result that they give out as doctrine that which is only their imaginings on the matter under consideration. Some are too proud to acknowledge that there are things which they do not know. But there are many things we do not know, and we should not be afraid to make it known that we do not know them.

I have known men to go to apostasy over the difference in a simple proposition, the question at issue being whether the Prophet Joseph looked through into the spirit, and thence, during the translation of the Book of Mormon from the golden plates. Now we do not know whether the prophet looked through, into or upon the sacred instruments, but we do know that he translated the book. That is sufficient. Let us say we do not know when that is the case, and not be ashamed of it. The Lord has wisely withheld information on some points, and if we have not learned these things do not worry over them, they will take care of themselves. The speaker commended to those interested in the same study applied to the gospel as they would give to any other science or subject of investigation. Harm has been done by too much speculation on subjects in Sunday schools and by the influence of untrained imagination. We are on dangerous ground when we undertake to add to the word of the Lord. Get all from that you can and let that suffice.

President Joseph F. Smith expressed gratitude for the music furnished by the singers from Provo, and asked those present who had no accommodations to report to the bureau of entertainment.

Jonnie Camp, assisted by the Provo choir, sang, "Jerusalem, O Turn Thee to the Lord."

The conference adjourned for six months and benediction was pronounced by Elder James W. Ure.

## ASSEMBLY HALL OVERFLOW.

Large Gathering of Saints Listen to Interesting Sermons by Many.

The overflow meeting in the assembly hall, convened at 2:10 o'clock and the large assembly was addressed by Elders Samuel O. Bennion, president of the Southern States mission; Hugh J. Cannon, president of the Liberty stake; Heber C. Iverson, bishop of the Second ward of Liberty stake; Ben E. Rich, president of the Eastern States mission; Elder Geo. F. Richards, of the quorum of apostles, president.

Elder Bennion prefaced his report of the work done in the Southern States mission since his appointment to the fourth nine months ago, with several pertinent remarks upon the theme, "Without revelation the people of the world will perish," and that to this end the Latter-day Saints should prepare their children to preach the revealed gospel to the children of men.

Elder Bennion submitted the following report of the work done in the Southern States mission during the last nine months:

Baptisms, 219; books sold, 49,000; meetings held, 6,625; families visited, 195,471; tracts distributed, 24,617; children blessed 176.

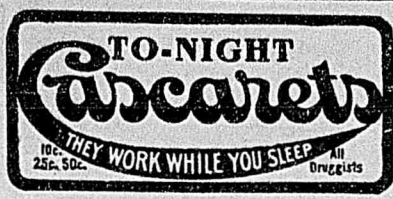
He spoke of noble work being accomplished by the missionaries, their trials and the strengthening of their testimonies while preaching the gospel.

Elder Hugh J. Cannon was the next speaker and he spoke of the importance of having a testimony of the divinity of the work in which the Latter-day Saints engaged; of having a knowledge that God lives and that authority is with the priesthood.

"We hear much," said he, "of the outward evidences, such as are of an outward nature as, seeing the sick healed—but these are not the only testimonies and they are not the most important."

"It seems to me that every man in the Church should look into his own heart, outside on any service and he will discover an abundance of reasons for the divinity of the work. And concerning other creeds and religions, I mean no disrespect, no Latter-day Saint of a responsible age can find sufficient reason to maintain their standard. I have seen this in my own case and it has taught me that when I have departed from that straight path, the inward evidence in my heart has always led me back again. When we examine ourselves we find claims that our faith is justified."

"A young lady once asked me, 'I know those of other religions who live up to their religion as sincerely as you



do. How about that? And I answered that the religions of the world do not require perfection and it is no wonder that people say that they can live their religion better than can the Latter-day Saints. It is easy for them to live their religion; they can float along with the world, perfection is not required of them. There are many men who believe in Christ, but cannot see modern revelation and they are deprived of those blessings which accompany modern revelation. Some there are who believe in past prophecy, but I think God that I can live, at least in a degree, in the present and in the future."

Members of the Salt Lake Temple choir sang, "Memories of Galilee."

ELDER HEBER IVERSON.

Heber E. Iverson was the next speaker. He discoursed upon "Obedience is the organ of spiritual knowledge," showing that this kind of knowledge was open to the humble and that it was not necessary to possess wealth and affluence to attain that end. Following these remarks, Elder Iverson spoke of the observance of the Word of Wisdom. "Every parent," said he, "should set an example worthy of a Latter-day Saint. Children see the parent in open violation of this commandment and what is the effect on them. If I have a child, the education of which will injure the children, what will be the result. The result of my example I must answer for before the Lord. If a child goes to destruction through the gratification of his habits, if I let that millstone around his neck, what will be my condemnation?"

"I must set an example before my children in conformity with the requirements of the gospel and I will feel better that had I given them untold millions."

"The law cannot be quite so important in the children's minds if the parents break it."

ELDER BEN E. RICH.

Elder Ben E. Rich submitted the following report covering the last two years and three months of his presidency of the Southern States mission:

Book of Mormon sold, 25,000; Voice of Warning sold, 160,000; "Mr. Durant" sold, 150,000; hymn books sold, 25,000; music books sold, 4,000; tracts distributed, 3,500,000; baptisms, 6,800.

Elder Rich expressed himself to the effect that after his long session of labor with the people of the South he was assured that they were the most hospitable people in the world; that they were good and that they were religious and that they loved strongly and that their prejudices were in proportion.

"I am glad," said he, "that I am going to another field. That is my business and my place is on the firing line."

He then spoke of the significance of the Eastern States and the history of the Church and the country.

"There are those," said he, "who affirm that we, who keep an army of men teaching that God made the government of the United States, are antagonistic to that government. We believe that the government is a part of the work of God and that there is no other work which has been a fulfillment of so many predictions of the Lord."

In conclusion Elder Rich admonished the assembly to take advantage of the remarks.

The meeting was opened with the hymn, "How firm a foundation." The opening prayer was offered by Elder Charles A. Callis. The choir sang the hymn, "raise ye the Lord."

The closing hymn was "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and the benediction was offered by Elder Daniel G. Miller.

## BARRATT HALL OVERFLOW.

Instructive Service Conducted for Those Unable to Attend Tabernacle.

In spite of the fact that a drizzling rain was pouring down all morning and afternoon, there was an overflow meeting in Barratt hall beginning shortly after 2 p. m. The tabernacle was crowded and so was the assembly hall but the saints who were unable to find seats in those two places were directed to Barratt hall, where a most instructive and interesting service was held. The meeting was presided over by Elder Joseph S. Wells, counselor to President Richard W. Young of the Ensign stake. It was expected that a meeting would be held there in the morning but the unfavorable condition of the weather prevented it.

By 2:30 the auditorium was well filled, but there was some discussion as to whether the congregation should adjourn to the other places of worship or proceed with the meeting there. By a vote it was decided to hold the services as planned.

The meeting was opened by the congregation singing "Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation." Prayer was offered by Elder Venne Halliday and the congregation sang: "How firm a foundation."

The first speaker was Elder Nepht Pratt, president of the Northwestern States mission. He bore a strong testimony of the divinity of the gospel and stated that he had come more than 800 miles to attend conference. He said that he had watched the growth of the Church since childhood and declared that its establishment and growth were the direct results of revelation. The speaker said he remembered, as a child, attending meetings under the old hoveys, and that the present magnificent places of worship were seen years ago by the prophetic eyes of the inspired leaders of the Church. Elder Pratt said he knew Brigham Young and never forgot his teachings and he advised the saints to work out their individual salvation.

Following the remarks of Elder Pratt, Miss Elma Young rendered a soprano solo.

The next speaker was President Joseph McRae of the Colorado mission who bore a strong testimony to the truth of the work he is engaged in and made an earnest plea for his hearers to live the first principles of the gospel.

Elder Thomas B. Evans followed Elder McRae and advised the saints to avoid places where the Sabbath is desecrated. He said that the people should shun theaters and other Sunday amusements as they had a tendency to detract from the spirit of the gospel.

Elder Joseph S. Wells made the closing remarks and expressed his gratitude at the growth of the Church in spite of the vicious persecution that the work has suffered. He said he knew the work was that of the Lord and because it is His work the powers of

evil which have been arrayed against it have proved futile. The meetings closed by the congregation singing, "We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet," and the benediction was pronounced by Elder John M. Knight.

## RELIGION CLASS WORKERS.

Session Held in Tabernacle Following Afternoon Session.

Religion class workers met in the tabernacle following the adjournment of the afternoon session of the conference. There were present of the general superintendency President Anthony H. Lund, Rudger Clawson, and Hyrum M. Smith. There were 12 members of the general board and 26 workers. The service was commenced with the singing of "Come, come ye saints." Elder Joseph McMurrin offered the opening prayer.

Supt. Daniel B. Jones of the Granite stake spoke. In his state the workers started out with the idea that the workers should love one another. There is an organization in every ward. In the summer a program was carried out in all the wards and the officers were surprised to find that their program was in perfect harmony with the new outlines. The Granite stake workers were endeavoring to get the word of the Lord Jesus and of His Church. Supt. Matthew Noall of the Ensign stake reported the condition of the work in his stake. All the wards have organizations except one. A great deal of prejudice has been overcome and the parents are now feeling that the work is a necessary one. Streets are being laid out, to pray, to learn the Lord in a real way and to act in harmony with His laws. In accordance with this idea the children have gifts to the poor at Christmas time. Family prayer is being established in some homes where it was not practised by the children bearing home the lesson of family prayer from the Religion class.

Elder Horace Cummings of the general board spoke of the conventions to be held in the various states. A suggestive program has been given out by the general board but it may be changed to meet local conditions. A convention of Church schools and Religion classes lasting a week will be held next season. Where Church schools exist an effort should be made to bring the Church school teachers in to the Religion class work especially in teaching Religion classes to students of high school grade who are not attending the Church school.

President Lund said that this meeting would be held in connection with each general conference. The object of the Religion class is to win the hearts of the children, to make them desire to carry out in their every day life the principles of the gospel. The feelings as well as the intellect must be touched. The children in the good work, make the classes this winter successful and the children of the Church will rise up and call you blessed, he said.

The following resolution was offered by D. P. Felt and carried unanimously: "Resolved, That it be the sense of this meeting that bishops and ward officers be hereafter urged to give local teachers in Religion class work a more pronounced support and also allow the children taught an opportunity to develop their newly acquired information." "We thank Thee, O God for a prophet," closed the session with prayer by Supt. Rudger Clawson.

## MORNING OVERFLOW.

Service Held in Assembly Hall—Good Reports Received.

At 11:20 o'clock a. m. an overflow meeting was called in the assembly hall, Elder Anthony W. Evans, of the quorum of the twelve apostles presiding.

The speakers were, German E. Elsworth of the Northern States mission; Andrew Jensen, Church historian; Elder Joseph E. Robinson, president of the California mission.

Elder Elsworth prefaced his remarks with a general doctrinal address. "During the present year," said he, "20 millionaires have labored in the Northern States mission counting those who have been released. There never has been a period since I have been in the field in which as the last year or six months accomplished as the last five or six months. We have been fortunate in placing the Book of Mormon among the people."

"The people are receiving our literature. The record for five years ago was about 5,000 books distributed, and 100,000 tracts. During the nine months closing with Sept. 469,000 tracts were distributed and 62,000 books.

We have not begun this year to give our attention to the distribution of the Book of Mormon, as we did last year."

Elder Andrew Jensen was the next speaker, and he discoursed upon the historical phase of the missionary work. He called the attention of the assembly to the fact that at present there were 59 stakes and 21 missions in the Church and that it was the duty of the Church not only to build up Zion, but to preach the gospel to the nations of the earth.

The history of the Latter-day Saints," said he, shows that when they had unlimited opportunity to be a wicked people, to be given over to crime, that their conduct negated the accusation made by their enemies. They had no laws when they came here but those which they had brought with them yet they were blamed for the tenor of their life."

Elder Robinson was the last speaker, and his discourse was given over to doctrinal questions. He said that although the elders were working earnestly and doing their duty the people of California, who were mostly pleasure seekers, did not listen with an open heart.

The choir opened the service with the hymn on page 198, "Now Let us Rejoice." The opening prayer was offered by Elder W. D. Johnson. The choir sang on page 212, "Redeemer of Israel." At the terminating of the meeting the choir sang the hymn on page 167, "Lord Dismiss Us," and Elder C. E. Thomas spoke the benediction.

## PROVO CHOIR APPEARS.

Singers from Garden City Heard Under Direction of Leader Boshard.

At last evening's session of the conference in the tabernacle, the Provo choir appeared upon special invitation of the Church authorities. Leader Boshard personally directed the singers and the numbers given reflected the careful preparation and the ability not only of the director but of the individual members of the organization as well. The appearance of the choir was a distinct and pleasing feature of the evening.

## STAKE CONFERENCES.

Appointments from October 17, 1908, To March 27, 1909.

Beaver, Utah and Emery, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17 and 18; Jan. 16 and 17; Weber and Liberty, Sunday, Oct. 18; Jan. 17.

Benson, Wasatch, San Luis and Alpine, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24 and 25; Jan. 23 and 24.

Pioneer, Cache, Summit, Millard and Juab, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1; Jan. 30 and 31.

Cassia, South Sanpete, Bingham, Wayne, Blaine, and Blaine, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8; Jan. 6 and 7.

Ogden, Sunday, Nov. 8; Jan. 14.

San Juan, Snowflake, Bannock, Taylor and Teton, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 15; Feb. 13 and 14.

Jordan, St. Johns, Uintah, Alberta and

Star Valley, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22; Feb. 20 and 21. Nebo, Panguitch, Bighorn, Monticopa and Granite, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 28 and 29; Feb. 27 and 28. Oneida, St. Joseph, Morgan, Kanab and Boxelder, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6; March 5 and 6. Union, North Sanpete, St. George, Juarez and Bear Lake, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13; March 12 and 13.

Salt Lake, Sunday, Dec. 13; March 13.

Rigby, Parowan, Sevier and Fremont, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20; March 19 and 20.

Ensign, Sunday, Dec. 29; March 29.

Hyrum, Pocatello, Malad, Davis and Tooele, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 26 and 27; March 26 and 27.

North Weber, Sunday, Dec. 27; March 27.

JOSEPH F. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHONY H. LUND, First Presidency.

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## NEW MANAGER IN CHARGE.

The Utah Association of Credit Men has a new manager, in George E. Forrester, chosen at the last meeting of the board of directors to succeed Mr. Van Dam, resigned to study law. Mr. Forrester has been installed formally in office, by President Parsons of the association, and at the special request of the directors, Mr. Walter Wright remains as assistant manager. The new manager is no stranger in Salt Lake, as he has resided here for 20 years. He was for 14 years with the Rio Grande Western, most of the time as traveling auditor. For five years he was assistant manager with the Utah Savings & Trust company, resigning that position 18 months ago. Mr. Forrester has for the last four months officiated as auditor of the Credit Men's association, and now is made the manager. Mr. Forrester is receiving the congratulations of his many friends.

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